Reaching Out in Region 4

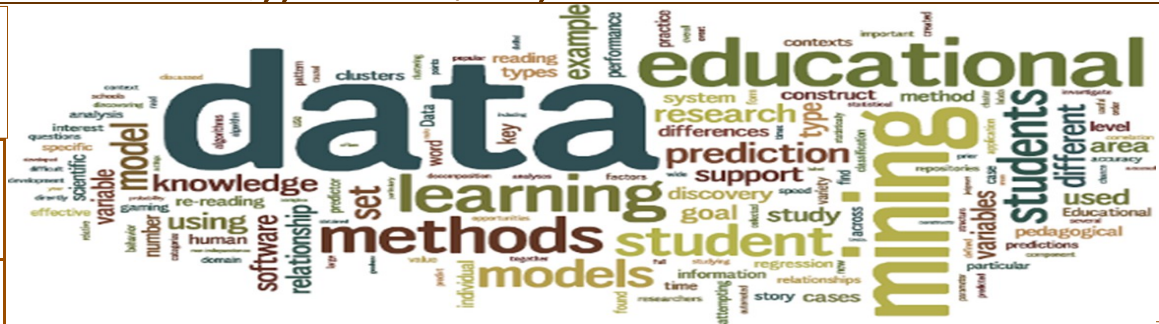
Feb. 1 ,2015

Volume 2 Issue 6

Effective Use of Data

In this issue:

"Grit is not just having resilience in the face of failure, but also having deep commitments that you remain loyal to over many years…. " Angela Duckworth



Creating Data Driven Schools

In a data-driven culture, there is an institutionalized willingness to use numbers systematically to reveal important patterns and to answer focused questions about policy, methods, and outcomes. A central data team relies on input from teachers, who are ultimately responsible for student success. Even relatively simple data patterns can suggest instructional responses. The team and the teachers link to the district's central office so that their work is not separate from other efforts to collect and use data. In other words, a data-driven culture is both localized and systemic. In addition, a data-driven culture requires a few knowledgeable staff members, supportive administrators, and institutionalized procedures for distributing data-collection instruments, retrieving data, writing reports, and informing decision making. Many important queries require only paper, a pencil, and a calculator. More ambitious projects require desktop statistical software and a staff member who knows how to use it. Happily, such software is becoming more affordable, user-friendly, and powerful. Regardless of whether the effort is small or large, the school district can become more informed and confident about the progress and impact of program policy and methods. With that knowledge and confidence, administrators, teachers, and stakeholders can respond proactively, rather than reactively, to demands for accountability -Penny Noyce

EL: February 2000 | Volume 57 | Number 5 What Do We Mean by Results? Pages 52-56

Adding the Grit Scale to School Data

Schools have data on their students from multiple sources– assessments, attendance, and behavior to name a few. While all of this data is important to inform their teachers on how to most effectively select their instructional activities there is still one important detail missing. Why do some students excel and overachieve while others consistently underachieve?

The elusive characteristic some students have is resilience or grit. Angela Duckworth well-known educational researcher defines grit as "tendency to sustain interest in and effort toward very long-term goals" Schools can gain insight on how resilient their students are by implementing Duckworth's Grit Scale when gathering data on their students. This 12 item scale takes approximately 10 minutes of each students' time so is very efficient to gather. (12 item Grit Scale).

Once this information is gathered teachers can utilize it as they form short and long term interventions for each student. One school, Upper School in Houston, Texas uses their student Grit scales like this :"In the short-term, we will watch our students carefully as we move through the school year. As we notice either overachievement or underachievement with individual students, we will consult those individuals' grit scales. We believe that with an underachieving student whose grit score is below average, for example, we can help by offering strategic advice and encouragement related to grit so we will focus our encouragement on that as well as on equipping that student "to pursue especially challenging aims." With overachievement, we likewise will consult students' grit scales, but will work to find correlations between overachievement and grit. Our short-term plan will be actionable with all of our students.

Our long-term plan of action involves using the grit data to inform decisions that affect teaching and learning. We have already begun planning ways to bring our students' attention to the concept of grit and the correlation between grit and success, according to Duckworth's research. Specifically, we are mapping out ways to address grit in large and open house events for both current and prospective families. Furthermore, we will be working with each academic department to incorporate allusions to grit in the classrooms. We may do this through the inclusion of curriculum-related articles, finding grit in fictional characters and historical figures, or labeling especially challenging problems "grit work." Our counselor will also be included, as she has opportunities for one-on-one conversations with students ."

Nathan Barber

Resources for Math Constructed Response Items

Here are the links for teachers to use to help and practice Extended Response and Constructed Response types of questions

There will be more extended response and constructed response questions release on the Assessment Web-page soon. You can keep checking under the Item Sampler area at: http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8 . In the mean-time there are prior year's released items that you might be able to use at: http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-released-items-and-scoring-notes also use the DOK Material attached and on the PowerPoint at: http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/depth-knowledge-powerpoint-algebra-i.pdf You can also use the ISTEP+ CCRA site at: http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/experience-college-and-career-ready-assessment You can also use the Algebra 1 ECA CCRA site at: https://in.questarai.com/ccra/

You can also Google "Constructed Response Math Questions" and find some great resources like:
https://www4.uwm.edu/Org/mmp/_resources/CR_Items.htm

http://mdk12.org/assessments/k_8/items/cr_grade5_math.html

http://mcsed.net/Page/268

http://www.pinterest.com/abigaillp/constructed-response/

https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/teacher-support-toolbox-library/6-8-grade-math-teachers

You can refine or narrow your search criteria using a specific grade level or mathematical concept and/or standard. These are great practice on this type of question. They may not be the exact same as the questions your students will be seeing on the ISTEP+ or ECA tests but the practice with this type of questions will help them considerably with the questions they will see and be asked to work on the Indiana ISTEP+ and ECA Assessments.

Likewise if you Google "Extended Response Math Questions" and find some great resources like:
https://www.k12.wa.us/Mathematics/ReleasedItems.aspx

http://www.riroe.com/site/nims/problem-solving-and-extended-response/

https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/k-12-math-year-long-planning

http://www.pinterest.com/malyons14/extended-response/

http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/math_released_er.htm

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Resources

Increase Test Success with Academic Vocabulary
Gradual Release of Student Responsibility
Quick Strategies on Formative Assessment
Formative Assessment Bundlr
Guided Math Set Up and Organization
Guided Math Schedule Chart
Resource for Literacy Webinars
Test Prep Resources-Smekens
Effective PD
Close Reading: Read, think, Talk, Write
40 Graphic Organizers That Build Comprehension During Independent Reading
K-8 Winter Passages and Lessons
Content Literacy Instruction for Ell's
Fluency and Word Study: Teaching Word Tiers
Text Dependent Questioning Support for Elem.

Important Information Regarding ECA's

In an effort to provide additional flexibility regarding testing this spring, during their February 4 meeting, members of the State Board of Education approved the following:

Spring 2015 Algebra 1 ECA Administration for Students in Grade 8 and Below

·Administering the **Spring 2015 Algebra I ECA** to students who are in grade 8 and below **is now a local decision**.

- *As the Spring 2015 ECA is not part of the student's graduation examination, nor used to calculate school accountability, the decision to administer the Algebra I ECA to students in grade 8 (and below) during the Spring 2015 window is now a local one.*

§ For these students:· Accountability calculations are based on the ISTEP+ test.· The new Grade 10 ISTEP+ based on college- and career-ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards will serve as the graduation examination.

- Sites choosing to administer the Spring 2015 Algebra I ECA to students in grade 8 and below will include the students in Questar's registration pro-

Resources for Increasing Grit